

**CLAIMS**

1. A method of processing an image signal comprising deriving measurements of an input image signal including at least a measurement representing the luminance (1) of the signal, characterised in that the method comprises the further steps of calculating two of the following: the local mean, the local standard deviation, the local maximum and the local minimum of said measurements, computing therefrom local standard coordinates which are independent of brightness and contrast, and forming an output image signal from the standard coordinates.
2. A method according to claim 1, wherein the local mean and the local standard deviation are calculated and said standard co-ordinates are the local z-scores.
3. A method according to claim 2, wherein, in parallel with the computation of the z-scores, colour channel signals are obtained by dividing by said standard deviation.
4. A method according to claim 1, wherein the local maximum and the local minimum are calculated and said standard co-ordinates are the local max-min scores.
5. A method according to claim 1, wherein the local minimum and the local mean are calculated and said standard co-ordinates are the local min-mean scores.
6. A method according to any preceding claim wherein, before the calculating step, logarithms are taken of the R, G and B colour channel values and opponent responses are computed.
7. A method according to claim 6 wherein, besides luminance, said opponent responses include red-greenness and yellow-blueness.
8. A method according to any preceding claim wherein, after computing the local standard coordinates, the logarithms of the R, G and B values are determined and the determined logarithms are inverted.

9. A method according to any preceding claim wherein a grey scale output image is obtained and saturation is not preserved.
10. A method according to any one of claims 1 to 8 wherein a colour output image is obtained and saturation is preserved.
11. A computer when programmed to perform a method according to any preceding claim.
12. A device for processing an image signal comprising means for deriving measurements of an image signal including at least a measurement representing the luminance of the signal; means for calculating two of the following: the local mean, the local standard deviation, the local maximum and the local minimum; and means for computing therefrom standard coordinates which are independent of brightness and contrast.
13. A device according to claim 12 wherein the measurement deriving means further derives measurements representing red-greenness and yellow-blueness.